

Joint Statement on Conservation Authority Amalgamation

In accordance with recent changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Ontario's 36 conservation authorities will amalgamate into 9 regional conservation authorities on February 1, 2027. Locally, Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA), Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) and Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA) are preparing to merge into what will be known as the Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority.

By June 30, 2026, each respective Board of Directors is required to appoint two representatives, the General Manager/CAO and one elected board member, to a Transition Committee. The Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency will oversee the transition and appoint a project executive to chair the transition committee. The committee is expected to convene in late summer.

As leaders of four separate conservation authorities, we value the local connections with landowners, community groups and member municipalities that have shaped our history and defined our individual successes.

As we prepare for a future together, we are committed to navigating this moment with as much openness and transparency as possible.

Navigating change always brings a certain level of uncertainty. However, as leaders we recognize a responsibility to look ahead to a future that can build upon our shared achievements. Therefore, the Chairs, Vice Chairs and General Managers of our four organizations have already begun to meet to share information and identify what must not change.

All four CAs have now approved the attached "Guiding Principles for Transition". The document outlines seven high-level principles intended to guide the transition:

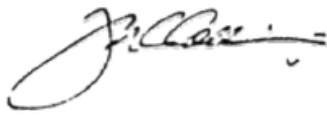
- Accountable and Transparent Governance
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Commitment to Workforce Stability and Talent Retention
- Service Excellence
- Risk Management and Business Continuity
- Watershed-Based Science Informed Management
- Transparency, Trust and Clear Communication

The principles are not listed in order of priority. Rather all are seen as essential components of a successful transition. We are committed to shaping the identity of the new Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority based on the same commitment to science, local knowledge and strong partnerships that have defined conservation authorities for over 80 years.

There is no doubt that this is a pivotal moment in our individual and collective histories. Our goal as leaders is to work with the province, staff, the public and our member municipalities to ensure that the new Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority is established on a path of continuous improvement.



Morgaine Griffin
CCCA Chair



John Challinor II
GRCA Chair



Todd Noble
KCCA Chair



Doug Brunton
LPRCA Chair

